

of the Congress. Leaders of Rota unanimously support this legislation. Additionally, the National Park Service, after completing a preliminary resources assessment of Rota in 2005, concluded that designating Rota as part of the National Park System appeared to be the best way to ensure the long-term protection of Rota's prehistoric and historic natural and man-made habitat structures.

Mr. Speaker, again, I commend Mr. SABLAN for his leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I want to also share with my colleagues a little bit of history.

□ 1730

Twenty miles away from the island of Rota is the island called Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands. This is where the Enola Gay was launched and delivered the two atomic bombs that were dropped in the war in Japan, which brought about the closing of World War II, especially against Japan.

So in terms of historical perspectives, Rota, Tinian, the Northern Mariana Islands, I think you've made a tremendous contribution for the betterment of our country.

And, again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back my time, I'd also like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his support of the bill. And because he mentioned Tinian, the Enola Gay and the Boxcar did fly from Tinian to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ended the war against Japan.

Those airplanes, I'd like to also note for the record, originated and took off from Utah before they came to the Mariana Islands. So there's that connection here.

So Mr. BISHOP is actually the one who reminded me that while they took off from Tinian, it was in Utah that they started the flight to Tinian and eventually flew to Japan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, he did steal my thunder. They did train and start in Wendover, Utah, which was part of my district until the legislature became involved in district lines in this last session.

I urge my colleagues to support this particular piece of legislation and remind them that any costs that would be associated with this study has to be appropriated. We have another chance to look at that. I firmly support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 862.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 862) to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 862

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the two parcels of land described in subsection (b) to a person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the two parcels. These parcels are within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest and contain private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The two parcels of land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) consist of approximately 2.67 acres described in the Bureau of Land Management's Survey Plat titled Subdivision and Metes and Bounds Surveys in secs. 28 and 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, approved February 2, 2010, as follows:

(1) Lot 2, sec. 28, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

(2) Lot 1, sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

### (c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance of the two parcels under subsection (a), the person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the parcels shall pay to the Secretary consideration in the amount of \$20,000.

(2) DEPOSIT.—The Secretary shall deposit the consideration received under this subsection in a special account in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

(3) USE.—The deposited funds shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for acquisition of land in the National Forest System.

(d) REVOCATION OF ORDERS.—Any public orders withdrawing any of the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under the public land laws are revoked to the extent necessary to permit conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a).

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) is withdrawn from all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws until the date which the conveyance is completed.

(f) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance authorized by subsection (a) shall be subject only to those surveys and clearances as needed to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this section shall terminate three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a survey error made in the 1960s. The landowners will be required to pay \$20,000 for these two parcels.

I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK, for her leadership on this issue. And at this time, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, imagine waking up one day to learn that your property really isn't yours. In fact, that's exactly the situation that a group of residents in my district find themselves in.

They didn't cause the problem. Over 40 years ago it was created because of a land survey that simply got it wrong. For years, even decades, they've lived on their property, they've maintained it, they've invested in it, only to find that their property is within the boundaries of the United States Forest Service.

Now, this has been a real economic hardship for these folks. Today we have an opportunity to solve this for them.

I thank Congressman GOSAR and his staff for the opportunity to work together on behalf of the people of Arizona. Our bill, H.R. 862, has a simple, commonsense conveyance which returns this land to its rightful owners and removes this economic hardship that has been hanging over them for so long.

We are pleased that the bill has bipartisan support, that it passed out of Natural Resources with a unanimous vote. And I urge my colleagues to join us today to support H.R. 862, because these people have been living in limbo for way too long.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. At this time, I yield as much time as he may consume

to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), someone who is clearly a better gentleman than I am.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for the time and her teamwork on this public lands initiative.

But I am very frustrated that it even is necessary for us to re-introduce this legislation. It shouldn't take years and an act of Congress to right a wrong. Last year, the House overwhelmingly passed this bill by a vote count of 421–1. Unfortunately, it was the victim of partisan gridlock in the United States Senate and was not sent to the President before the end of the 112th Congress.

I see this initiative as unfinished business from the last Congress; and I hope, together, we can get this across the finish line very quickly this year.

H.R. 862 is a commonsense solution to an incomprehensible Federal land situation in northern Arizona. In 1960, the Federal Government conducted a survey in which several acres of the United States Forest Service land were misidentified as private property.

It was not until 2007, when the Federal Government contracted another private survey, that the mistakes were realized, and the residents of the Mountaineer neighborhood were informed of these errors.

Until the 2007 survey, many of these residents have maintained these parcels and developed them as their own for years and, in some cases, decades. In essence, the Federal Government seized lands the residents had maintained, developed, and paid taxes on for years.

Questions associated with the land ownership have plummeted property values in the neighborhood and prevented a number of owners from selling their homes. On some of those parcels, the revised boundary goes practically through portions of the residents' homes or backyards.

To fix the untenable situation, we re-introduced H.R. 862. The bill simply authorizes the Forest Service to convey all rights, titles, and interests to approximately 2.67 acres of the Coconino National Forest to the homeowners for a small fee, using an estimation process Congress utilized in another land exchange in the same northern Arizona county from the 109th Congress, Public Law No. 109–110.

The Forest Service does not want to own these people's living rooms, and the property owners certainly do not want to share their homes or their yards with the Forest Service. This bill is a no-brainer, reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent.

I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation and relieve some northern Arizonans of this financially burdensome situation.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, when the House acts this way, it's some of the most brightest, proudest moments for me—that I am a part of this House

when Congress, when Members of this House do something to right a wrong. And in this case, not just right a wrong, but because of a survey and a mistake by surveyors in the 1960s, these homeowners are now even willing to put up their own money and buy a piece of property that they thought they always owned.

This is a proud moment, and I support the bill, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is one situation that is just unbelievable that the situation exists. It is unbelievable that it takes legislation to solve this type of a problem.

And I want to thank Mr. GOSAR, as well as Mrs. KIRKPATRICK from Arizona, for working together to try and solve this problem that should never have existed in the first place.

It's a good bill. I urge support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 862.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1740

#### BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 520) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 520

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) In the late 19th century and early 20th century, African-American troops who came to be known as the Buffalo Soldiers served in many critical roles in the western United States, including protecting some of the first National Parks.

(2) Based at the Presidio in San Francisco, Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks where they patrolled the backcountry, built trails, stopped poaching, and otherwise served in the roles later assumed by National Park rangers.

(3) The public would benefit from having opportunities to learn more about the Buf-

falo Soldiers in the National Parks and their contributions to the management of National Parks and the legacy of African-Americans in the post-Civil War era.

(4) As the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 approaches, it is an especially appropriate time to conduct research and increase public awareness of the stewardship role the Buffalo Soldiers played in the early years of the National Parks.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize a study to determine the most effective ways to increase understanding and public awareness of the critical role that the Buffalo Soldiers played in the early years of the National Parks.

#### SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study shall include—

(1) a historical assessment, based on extensive research, of the Buffalo Soldiers who served in National Parks in the years prior to the establishment of the National Park Service;

(2) an evaluation of the suitability and feasibility of establishing a national historic trail commemorating the route traveled by the Buffalo Soldiers from their post in the Presidio of San Francisco to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks and to any other National Parks where they may have served;

(3) the identification of properties that could meet criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or criteria for designation as National Historic Landmarks;

(4) an evaluation of appropriate ways to enhance historical research, education, interpretation, and public awareness of the story of the Buffalo Soldiers' stewardship role in the National Parks, including ways to link the story to the development of National Parks and the story of African-American military service following the Civil War; and

(5) any other matters that the Secretary of the Interior deems appropriate for this study.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after funds are made available for the study, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the study's findings and recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, again I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This particular bill authorizes the National Park Service, again, to conduct a study. The cost of the study